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R E P O R T

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

WISCONSIN INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,

DECEMBER 21st.



MADISON  
DAVID ATWOOD, PRINTER.  
1854.



# OFFICERS

OF THE WISCONSIN INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

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A. HYATT SMITH—*President.*

LYMAN J. BARROWS—*Secretary.*

J. BODWELL DOE—*Treasurer.*

## TRUSTEES.

REV. HIRAM FOOTE,

A. HYATT SMITH,

IRA MILTIMORE,

J. BODWELL DOE,

J. F. WILLARD,

LEVI ALDEN,

VISITING PHYSICIAN—LYMAN J. BARROWS, M. D.

SUPERINTENDENT—C. B. WOODRUFF.

MATRON—MRS. C. B. WOODRUFF.

MUSIC TEACHER—MRS. ELIZA WALLS.

ASSISTANT TEACHER—MISS. MARY A. WEED.



# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES :

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*To his Excellency, the Governor of the State of Wisconsin :*

The Board of Trustees of the Wisconsin Institute for the education of the blind, have the honor herewith to submit their fourth annual

## R E P O R T :

The fourth year of the institution commenced on the first Monday of October last. The present number of pupils in attendance is thirteen, being an increase of four over the number in our last annual report. Their names, ages, residence, place of nativity, number of years blindness and date of admission, will be found in the report of Mr. C. B. Woodruff, Superintendent, which is herewith submitted :

During the past year the trustees have caused to be erected a plain two story frame building, eighteen by twenty-four feet, adjoining the West wing of the main building at an expense not exceeding four hundred dollars, which sum has been saved from the contingent fund, appropriated by the Legislature, for furnishing the building, erecting out-houses, digging a well, improving the ground, &c., Owing to the increased number of pupils, it was found necessary to use the upper story of this building as a dormitory for the boys. The lower story is used by the pupils as a shop for the manufacturing of brooms and brushes, with a portion partitioned off for a bathing room.

The brief experience we have had in the Mechanical and Han-

dicraft department, both male and female, serves but to strengthen our convictions of its present and prospective advantages to the pupils and to the institution. For the results of this department, we would respectfully call your attention to the report of the Superintendent.

The sum of twenty-five hundred dollars was appropriated for the support of the institution for the year commencing October 1st, 1853. By the most rigid system of economy the trustees will be enabled to keep within these limits.

For a statement of the names of the persons in whose favor orders have been drawn on the Treasurer of the institution, by order of the Board of Trustees, for the year ending December 31st, 1853; for what the same were drawn, and the several amounts thereof, we respectfully refer you to the report of the Treasurer, marked A. which is herewith submitted.

The outstanding accounts against the institute, not yet audited by the Board of Trustees, and the amount of salary due the Superintendent, Teachers and Matron for the quarter ending December 31st, 1853, will be met by the money to be drawn from the State Treasury on the first day of January 1854, under the appropriation made by the legislature at its last session.

The number of pupils as will be seen above, has been increased from nine to thirteen since our last annual report.

The Superintendent has received pledges from applicants for admission, sufficient to make the whole number in attendance the ensuing year, twenty, which is the full number the present institute building can accommodate; and in fact more, for as will be seen above, with our present number of pupils we are compelled to use a part of the work-shop as a Dormitory. To support and properly instruct this increased number of pupils during the year commencing October 1st, 1854, an appropriation of not less than thirty-five hundred dollars will be requisite. This sum the trustees hope will be sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the institution, and to purchase a piano, and other necessary instruments for the use of the pupils.

In view of the increased and constantly increasing number of the blind in our State, the trustees feel that it is full time that our institute buildings were completed, and that unfortunate class have adequate opportunities afforded them for education, support and the means of obtaining a livelihood.

In examining the reports of similar institutions in the Western States, we find that the expenses of our institution and the appropriations of our legislature for this charity have been much less, though since the establishment of this institution the suggestions of its board of trustees have always been liberally and promptly responded to by our legislature. We feel solicitous that our own State should contribute her part to this benevolent work, and in the discharge of our duties as trustees, we feel it incumbent on us to urge upon the benevolence and enlightened liberality of our legislature the necessities of this institution until it is placed in a condition fully to meet the wants of the blind in our state, and made an honor to the charitable and munificent character of Wisconsin.

The Legislature during the year 1850-1 appropriated for building the West wing three thousand dollars. To erect and complete the main building and east wing, according to the original plan of John F. Rague, Architect, the trustees estimate will require a sum of at least twelve thousand dollars, and for this purpose we respectfully but earnestly recommend that an appropriation be made by the legislature.

The institute for the blind has now been established nearly four years, and under the merciful care of Divine Providence continues to prosper.

During that time no fatal disease has appeared in the institution and but two cases of severe sickness. The past year the pupils have enjoyed uniform good health.

In closing this report the trustees take pleasure in recording their testimony to the fidelity and unceasing energy of the Super-

intendent in the discharge of the various duties assigned him ; also to the excellency of all of the officers connected with the management of the "Interior affairs" of the institution.

Respectfully submitted.

A. HYATT SMITH,

*President of Board of Trustees.*

LYMAN J. BARROWS,

*Secretary.*

Janesville, Dec. 31, 1853.

"A."

WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR THE EDUCATION OF  
THE BLIND.

*In account with J. BODWELL DOE, Treasurer.*

DISBURSEMENTS,

| ORDER.<br>No. |                                                                                    |       |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 114           | Cash paid Doolittle and West, Glazing                                              | 1 63  |
| 125           | " " L. Merrill & Son, Hardware                                                     | 10 45 |
| 136           | " " E. Spear, Provisions for house                                                 | 7 24  |
| 138           | " " L. J. Barrows, Medical services                                                | 24 00 |
| 139           | " " J. S. Ogilvie, sundries for house                                              | 1 78  |
| 140           | " " J. F. Morse, Furniture,                                                        | 20 07 |
| 141           | " " H. & G. Scarcliffe, Meat                                                       | 50 89 |
| 142           | " " O. W. Norton, Groceries                                                        | 35 55 |
| 143           | " " Henry Dutton, Books for institute                                              | 20 50 |
| 144           | " " " " Balance of salary as<br>Sup't to January 1st 1853,                         | 43 34 |
| 145           | " " Geo. Miltimore, Salary as Steward<br>for quarter ending Dec. 31st, 1852,       | 66 67 |
| 146           | " " Jane Miltimore, Salary as Matron<br>for the year ending Dec. 31st 1852,        | 33 33 |
| 147           | " " T. Z. Buck, repairs                                                            | 5 50  |
| 148           | " " John Tompkins, Blacksmithing.                                                  | 4 87  |
| 149           | " " R. S. Burdick, Furniture                                                       | 3 00  |
| 150           | " " R. J. Richardson, Hardware                                                     | 48 38 |
| 151           | " " C. G. Gillett, Groceries                                                       | 84 19 |
| 152           | " " Mrs. L. Walls, salary as Music Tea-<br>cher, for quarter ending Dec. 31, 1852, | 62 50 |
| 153           | " " Henry Dutton on salary as Sup't,                                               | 40 00 |
| 154           | " " Amer. Ex. Co. charges on books                                                 | 4 25  |
| 155           | " " Inger Oleson, work in house                                                    | 6 00  |

## DISBURSEMENTS—Continued.

|     |           |                                                                                   |        |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 156 | Cash paid | Cornelia Nelson, work in house                                                    | 6 25   |
| 157 | "         | Rachel Mikkell, " " "                                                             | 12 50  |
| 158 | "         | R. Hill, Blacksmithing                                                            | 4 07   |
| 159 | "         | Doe & Cooley, sundries for house                                                  | 290 18 |
| 160 | "         | Peter Myers, meat                                                                 | 17 51  |
| 161 | "         | J. F. Willard, sundries for house                                                 | 43 25  |
| 162 | "         | R. J. Richardson, Hardware                                                        | 34 06  |
| 163 | "         | L. Merrill & Son, do                                                              | 72 63  |
| 164 | "         | Henry Dutton, Books for Institute                                                 | 5 00   |
| 165 | "         | L. Moses, Mat board, &c.,                                                         | 4 50   |
| 166 | "         | C. B. Woodruff, expenses visiting institution at the east                         | 35 00  |
| 167 | "         | Henry Dutton, balance of salary in full to March 16, 1853,                        | 64 17  |
| 31  | "         | Jas. Sutherland, stationery                                                       | 7 89   |
| 32  | "         | H. Stevenson, hauling wood                                                        | 1 00   |
| 33  | "         | J. F. Willard, sundries for house                                                 | 32 24  |
| 34  | "         | " " Fruit trees, &c.,                                                             | 5 00   |
| 35  | "         | C. W. Seaver, team hire                                                           | 2 75   |
| 37  | "         | Mark Hardy, repairs to wagon                                                      | 3 63   |
| 38  | "         | T. B. Wooliscroft, crackers, &c.,                                                 | 12 62  |
| 39  | "         | C. P. King, services as Secretary                                                 | 21 00  |
| 40  | "         | I. Mills, in part for 50 cords wood                                               | 100 00 |
| 41  | "         | Rachel Mikkell, work in house                                                     | 16 50  |
| 42  | "         | Cornelia Nelson, " " "                                                            | 16 50  |
| 43  | "         | E. Spears, sundries for house                                                     | 10 00  |
| 44  | "         | O. W. Norton, Groceries                                                           | 38 71  |
| 45  | "         | C. B. Woodruff, in part for salary as principal for the q'r ending June 30, 1853, | 25 00  |
| 46  | Cash paid | Calvin Cushman, 8 days work                                                       | 3 68   |
| 47  | "         | Geo. Miltimore, salary as Steward for q'r ending April 1, 1853,                   | 66 67  |
| 48  | "         | Jane Miltimore, salary as matron for q'r ending April 1st, 1853,                  | 33 33  |
| 49  | "         | Mrs. L. Walls, music teacher                                                      | 62 50  |
| 50  | "         | Norwegian, sawing wood                                                            | 6 75   |
| 51  | "         | J. W. Bowen, butter                                                               | 5 62   |
| 54  | "         | C. G. Gillet, groceries                                                           | 27 57  |
| 55  | "         | Doe & Cooly, sundries for house                                                   | 78 80  |
| 56  | "         | Oglvie & Barrows, " " "                                                           | 7 47   |
| 58  | "         | Rachel, Mikkell, work in house                                                    | 6 16   |
| 59  | "         | Cornelia Nelson, " " "                                                            | 6 16   |

## DISBURSEMENTS—Continued.

|    |                                           |        |
|----|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| 60 | Cash paid J. J. R. Pease, Insurance       | 30 00  |
| 61 | " " C. W. Dean, broom corn                | 15 00  |
| 62 | " " J. F. Willard, sundries for house     | 12 93  |
| 63 | " " Turner, machinery for making          | 3 85   |
| 64 | " " brooms                                | 7 53   |
| 65 | " " Norwegian, work about grounds         | 8 38   |
| 67 | " " J. F. Willard, Flour                  | 4 00   |
| 68 | " " Geo. Miltimore, services as Stew-     |        |
|    | ard in part                               | 7 46   |
| 72 | " " Ann Brown, work in house              | 6 00   |
| 73 | " " Pierce, milk                          | 5 88   |
| 74 | " " John Bowen, Butter                    | 10 18  |
| 75 | " " E. Spears, butter                     | 11 63  |
| 76 | " " E. H. Strong, Post Office             | 3 11   |
| 77 | " " S. H. Alden, " "                      | 6 00   |
| 78 | " " J. F. Willard, flour                  | 6 00   |
| 79 | " " John F. Pease, music, tuning and      |        |
|    | repairing piano                           | 7 50   |
| 80 | " " Dr. Robinson, Farrier                 | 3 00   |
| 81 | " " Ogilvie & Barrows sundr's for house   | 5 75   |
| 82 | " " Luther Clark, on contract for build-  |        |
|    | ing shop                                  | 50 00  |
| 83 | " " C. B. Woodruff contingent expen's     | 20 00  |
| 84 | " " " " on acc't as salr'y as Sup't       | 25 00  |
| 86 | " " " " sund's & trav'ng expen's          | 43 57  |
| 85 | " " Rachel Mikkell, work in house         | 4 80   |
| 87 | " " Mrs. L. Walls, sal'y as music teach'r | 25 00  |
| 88 | " " Luther Clark, on con. for building    | 36 50  |
| 89 | " " " " shop in full                      | 90 05  |
| 90 | " " " "                                   | 10 52  |
| 91 | " " " "                                   | 116 93 |
| 98 | " F. McIlvanna, work on building          | 24 50  |

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\$2421 88

A.—Continued.

## RECEIPTS,

|                   |                                                        |                 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1852.<br>Dec. 31, | Balance in Treasury as per last report,                | 142 44          |
| 1853.<br>Jan. 3,  | By Cash from State Treasurer,<br>(due Oct. 1st, 1852,  | } 500 00        |
| 1853.<br>Jan. 4,  | By Cash from State Treasurer,<br>(due 1st, Jan. 1853,) |                 |
| 1853.<br>May 16,  | By Cash from State Treasurer,<br>(due 1st April 1853,  | } 500 00        |
|                   | Balance due Treasurer                                  |                 |
|                   |                                                        | 779 44          |
|                   |                                                        | <hr/> \$2421 88 |

# REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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*To the Board of Trustees of the Wisconsin Institution for the Education of the Blind.*

GENTLEMEN:—In conformity to established usage, I have the honor to present you a report of the condition and progress of the institute under my charge. And in so doing I shall occupy but little space by theorizing, believing that a report of this kind should not be burdened by that which is directed more to the popular eye than to the clear elucidation of the institute affairs; in this particular I agree with Mr. Churchman, the distinguished superintendent of the Indiana institution, who says, "It has frequently been urged of late, by the superintendents of some of the other institutions for the blind, that our annual communications should contain more discussion of topics of general interest connected with our common possession, and fewer details of the condition and progress of the several establishments from which they issue. Now I would not be thought to underrate the value of these discussions as a means of developing the true principles of education, applied to the peculiar objects of our care and instruction; yet I cannot withhold the expression of the opinion, that the primary design of the reports of any institution should be to lay before its friends and supporters a full and faithful history of its progress in the work assigned it, a strict account of the disbursements of its funds, and a clear exhibit of its future requirements, together with suggestions having direct reference to our own future policy, as may be deemed important.

Whatever is written more than this must be considered as incidental to the main object, and written under the supposition that our communications may be read by our co-laborers in other parts of the country.

We write ostensibly for the information of our patrons, those who are immediately interested in the management and success of our respective charges, and not for the edification of each other as teachers. Why then should we tax the former with the reading of what is especially designed for the latter?

The institute has been under my charge about nine months. During that time our number has increased from seven to thirteen pupils. Therefore you will observe a much greater number has been enabled to enjoy the advantages of an institute, which the state; in its benevolence, has seen fit to establish.

The health of the pupils has been uniformly good during the year, with the exception of one young man who was sick two weeks in July last.

The deportment of the pupils has been such as merits my entire approbation, having been attentive, kind, obedient, and diligent.

The blind seek for knowledge with that avidity of which few persons are aware, that have not been connected with them. I find a great eagerness among the blind, to be placed upon an equality with the seeing, in respect to obtaining a livelihood.

Mechanical establishments attached to institutions, have a tendency to open the way to competence, for those who have hitherto been thought unable to do any thing.

The shop which has been connected with the institute during the past fall, is proving a valuable source of improvement, and I might say enjoyment, to the student.

The boys take a lively interest in making brooms and brushes. Most of the boys evince much talent in the mechanical department, and I can also say the same concerning the females in the department of handicraft.

Indeed, the little beginning we have made in mechanics, has proved beyond a doubt, that a young man who has learned to make brooms, baskets, and brushes, taken together with his literary and musical education, will tread the rugged and perilous path of life with ease and comfort. And when he shall have passed through a long and useful life, he will have the enjoyment of knowing that he has lived to some purpose.

At the recent agricultural fair held in our city, we placed on exhibition several articles manufactured at the institute, and had the satisfaction to receive four premiums.

Few people have any idea of the amount of money that a blind person can make after learning the trade of broom making, saying nothing of basket or brush making.

If the student raises his own broom-corn, the material for making each broom will cost him not far from five cents, leaving the profit of seven cents on each broom worth one shilling; therefore by making fifteen each day he will obtain for his work one dollar and five cents per day. There is an inducement held out to the students, both male and female, in the form of over work. A regular number of brooms is given to each boy per week. If he makes over that number he receives so much per broom.

With the females, it is arranged in such a manner that we receive a certain per cent. of the work done. By this means they are induced to work almost continually while out of school; which is much better for the health and progress of the student, also more profit to the institute, which will be no inconsiderable sum when the shop is fully arranged for brushes as well as brooms.

The annexed schedule "A," shows the names, ages, residence, place of nativity, number of years of blindness, date of admission, of the several pupils now in the institution.

Schedule "B," shows cost of implements for broom manufacture, material for manufacturing brooms, gain, &c.

We are just arranging our shop and implements for making brushes of all kinds; circumstances having delayed the arrange-

ments, I shall not be able to report to you the cost of implements for brush manufacture, &c. We expect to commence making brushes about the second week in January.

The fancy knitting, which consists of tidies, (for chairs,) cake covers, fancy baskets, and plain knitting, is taught by Mrs. Eliza Walls, teacher in the musical department, who, it gives me great pleasure to say, is a very efficient and persevering teacher. The knitting class meets Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, from six to quarter past seven.

Sewing is taught to the females by Miss Mary A. Weed, a teacher in the literary department, who is proving herself an energetic and valuable assistant. Time for lessons in sewing, Monday and Tuesday evenings from six to quarter past seven.

The pupils have been required to bathe often, and when the bathing room is finished, which is attached to the shop, the pupils will be required to bathe twice per week during the summer, and once per week during the winter. All arise at the ringing of the bell in the morning at six. Family breakfast at quarter to seven; pupils at quarter past. Pupils attend singing class from eight to nine. At nine the school bell rings; a portion of the scripture is read and prayer offered. Then the daily studies are commenced, which consist of reading, writing, spelling, geography, composition, elocution, written arithmetic, mental arithmetic, philosophy, grammar, meteorology, and Algebra. Thus it continues until twelve o'clock, and from one until four in the winter, from two until five in the summer. There is then a recess of two hours for tea, and exercise, or working in the shop. From eight to nine in the evening, reading, historical, biographical, &c. I find that the boys prefer working in the shop to play, which is an anomaly.

I would suggest to the board the propriety of a law requiring the appropriate officers of each town to obtain the names, ages, and post office address of all blind persons within their respective towns, and transfer them to the proper state officer each year. By so doing we gain information of their names and locations.

It is impossible to get anything like a true account from the census list, as our state increases so fast in population that many blind persons might be in our State during nearly ten years and receive no benefit. For instance, if a blind person is twenty, and happens to come into the State a few weeks after the census is taken, he cannot be found until nearly ten years after, when he may be past the age for improvement.

It is expected that when an institute of this kind is opened that blind persons in different portions of the State will make all haste to enjoy its advantages. Why do they not? Because many might not be informed that an institution of the kind existed in the State, let it be ever so flourishing. Many who did know concerning it would not know its advantages, neither can you hardly convince them that the blind can do so much. And others have an idea that it is an asylum, instead of an institute for education. They say they can support their own children. This shows conclusively that many do not know that the institute is designed to educate, not merely for the support of the blind. As soon as these things are explained to them, they gladly and cheerfully make their way to the institute, as soon as possible.

The press of this State has ever shown a laudable pride and much liberality in advancing the cause of science and benevolence. The following newspapers have been sent to us regularly and gratuitously; for which, in behalf of the pupils, I return thanks to the gentlemanly proprietors of the same, to wit:

Janesville Gazette, (weekly.)

Democratic Standard, “

Free Press, “

Wisconsin, (daily.)

Weekly Sentinel.

State Journal, (weekly.)

Beaver Dam Republican, (weekly.)

And to you, as the board of trustees, I tender my grateful thanks for the unwearied attention and energy you have mani-

tested, as co-laborers with me in an enterprise which has for its object the alleviation and education of the blind.

Respectfully submitted,

C. B. WOODRUFF,

*Superintendent.*

Wisconsin Institute for the Blind, }  
December 10th, 1853. }

## SCHEDULE "A."

*Showing the Names, Ages, Residence, and Time of Admission of the several Pupils now in the Institution.*

| NAMES.                  | AGE. | RESIDENCE.                      | COUNTY.      | DATE OF ADMISSION. |
|-------------------------|------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Eliza C. Bowman, - -    | 11   | Delevan, - -                    | Walworth, -  | Oct. 1st, 1850.    |
| George Ross, - - -      | 16   | Johnstown, - -                  | Rock, - -    | " "                |
| Oliver Vanzant, - - -   | 14   | East Troy, - -                  | Walworth, -  | " "                |
| John Shaler, - - -      | 20   | Fulton, - - -                   | Rock, - -    | " "                |
| Frances A. Raleigh, - - | 13   | Milwaukee, - -                  | Milwaukee, - | " "                |
| Caroline Porter, - - -  | 15   | Hebron, - - -                   | Jefferson, - | March 20, 1851.    |
| Andrew Sivensrude, - -  | 28   | Ixonia, - - -                   | " - -        | Nov. 11th, 1851.   |
| Joseph Miller, - - -    | 15   | Milwaukee, - -                  | Milwaukee, - | Oct. 6th, "        |
| Mary Fitzgerald, - - -  | 31   | " - - -                         | " - -        | " "                |
| Lucy Randall, - - -     | 29   | Hustisford, - -                 | Dodge, - -   | Oct. 3rd, 1853.    |
| Maria M. Sluter, - - -  | 18   | Cottage Grove, -                | Dane, - -    | " "                |
| August Cale, - - -      | 13   | Milwaukee, - -                  | Milwaukee, - | " 18th, "          |
| Fidelia Blood, - - -    | 12   | <u>                    </u> - - | Lafayette, - | " 4th, "           |

## SCHEDULE "B."

*WORK SHOP in account with Institute :*

|                                              | Dr.     |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| To 7 cwt. broom corn, - - - - -              | 21 00   |
| " wire for winding, - - - - -                | 4 50    |
| " twine for sewing - - - - -                 | 1 00    |
| " broom handles, - - - - -                   | 7 83    |
| " fixtuers used for manufacturing, - - - - - | 34 67   |
|                                              | <hr/>   |
|                                              | 69 00   |
| Balance on hand, - - - - -                   | 6 00    |
|                                              | <hr/>   |
|                                              | \$75 00 |
|                                              | Cr.     |
| By 600 brooms, at 1s, - - - - -              | \$75 00 |
|                                              | <hr/>   |

It will be seen that the profits arising from this department have amounted to sufficient to pay for the fixtures, and leave a small balance, and this, too, in the first three months of its existence.